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**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**  
**GROUP ART UNIT 1771**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Rudolf GAERTNER et al.  
Serial No. : **10/074,404**  
Filed : February 12, 2002  
For : Tufted Backing and Method of Manufacturing Same  
Examiner : Cheryl Ann Juska  
Art Unit : 1771  
Confirmation No. : 7026

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Date: November 24, 2004

Signature:   
Richard M. Rosati (Reg. No. 31,792)

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

S I R:

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 22, 2004,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which  
begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.